

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2435

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government

Title: An act relating to enhancing election reconciliation reports.

Brief Description: Enhancing election reconciliation reports.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, S. Hunt, Tarleton, Stanford, McBride and Bergquist.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government: 1/19/16, 1/20/16 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Secretary of State to prepare a statewide election reconciliation report that combines data from each county election reconciliation report.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives S. Hunt, Chair; Bergquist, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Minority Member; Van Werven, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Frame, Hawkins and Moscoso.

Staff: Sean Flynn (786-7124).

Background:

The county auditor conducts all general and elections within the county and is responsible for processing ballots. The county canvassing board canvasses the ballot returns and certifies election results. The results must be certified 14 days after a primary or special election and 21 days after a general election.

An election reconciliation report must be prepared by the county auditor and submitted at the time of the election certification. The county auditor must make the report available on the auditor's website. The report must contain data including:

- the number of registered voters;

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- the number of ballots issued, received, counted, and rejected, including provisional, federal write-in, and overseas ballots; and
 - the number of voters credited with voting.
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Summary of Bill:

The county auditor must submit the election reconciliation report to the Secretary of State in the form requested by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State must collect all county reconciliation reports.

Within one month after the last county's election results are certified, the Secretary of State must prepare a statewide reconciliation report. The statewide report may be in the form designated by the Secretary of State and must be published on the Secretary of State's website at the time it is prepared.

The statewide report must provide a comparison among counties on the rates of votes received, counted, and rejected for all ballots, including provisional, write-in, and overseas ballots. The comparison data may be organized to measure performance, such as by rankings or percentages.

The statewide report also must include an analysis of the data that can be used to gain a better understanding of election administration and policy. The analysis should combine dates over multiple years to provide broader comparisons and reveal trends of voter registration, turnout, and ballot counting. National election statistics should be incorporated into the report to the extent it is available.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This enhances the use of the county reports that are already produced and direct the Secretary of State to provide a statewide view that compares county election practices and increases ways to improve and standardize election data. There is a national model with the Pew Research Center that compares election results in different states.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Hudgins, prime sponsor; and Toni McKinley-Camp and Lori Augino, Office of the Secretary of State.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.